



**U.S. Forest Service
Klamath National Forest
1711 South Main Street
Yreka CA 96097
Voice: 530-842-6131
Email: klamathinfo@fs.fed.us
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/klamath**



News Release

June 27, 2016

**Public Pony Fire information:
530-643-76695
Email: KNFPonyfire@gmail.com
Klamath NF Public Affairs Officer:
530-841-4485**

Pony Fire Update: June 27, 2016

Happy Camp, CA -- The Pony Fire is burning on the Klamath National Forest, about fifteen miles southwest of Happy Camp and west of Highway 96. The fire remains at 2,858 acres and 63 percent contained. In the past week the fire has grown just three acres.

Over the weekend, crews made good progress on mop-up operations along the fire's perimeter and continued to patrol the containment lines on the northern, eastern and southern perimeters. A fallen burning snag was spotted on the eastern perimeter near the Swillup Creek drainage; crews and aircraft acted quickly to mitigate any fire spread potential. The perimeter will continue to be monitored by aircraft and firefighters. Crews completed chipping operations near Highway 96 and Forest Road 15N30 (Pony Peak Ridge Road). A track-mounted chipper arrived on the incident and is currently working on Forest Road 14N39 (Pony Peak Road), removing piles of cut brush along the roadside. Crews will continue to remove snags to provide for firefighter safety.

Temperatures continued to rise over the weekend, marking the beginning of a warming trend that will bring lower humidity, along with above-average temperatures. No precipitation is expected with the warming trend. The fire is expected to continue to creep and smolder, with the possibility of single tree torching through the week.

Firefighter safety continues to be our main priority and a Rapid Extraction Module (REM) arrived on the incident to help us meet this objective. The module includes two firefighters, one a paramedic and one an emergency medical technician, both with special training to transport injured firefighters and provide medical services in difficult terrain. Burning logs rolling down hill will continue to be the biggest threat.

For public and firefighter safety, a temporary closure order has been issued for lands within and adjacent to the Pony fire. The closed area includes National Forest land west of Highway 96, north of the Ukonom Ranger District boundary, east of Siskiyou Wilderness, and south of a line defined along Crawford Creek, Forest Road 15N19, and Bear Creek/Kelsey Trail. Dillon Creek Campground remains open.

More information and maps of the closure area are available on the Klamath National Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/klamath).

Information, maps, and closures are also posted on Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4769/>.

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